

Vincent Thomas To Push Bills On Narcotics

Assemblyman Vincent Thomas of San Pedro is co-author of two bills which would drastically lighten California's narcotics laws.

Both AB Numbers 1 and 9 would generally increase penalties for possession of narcotics, including marijuana.

In addition to various increases in the term imprisonment, the bills would eliminate alternative of county jail sentence in many cases. Other provisions:

- 1.—Prohibits release on parole or any other release from prison for stated periods, usually coinciding with the minimum term for the particular offense.
- 2.—Provides additional schedule of penalties for persons convicted previously two or more times of narcotics offenses, more severe than in cases where the offender has only one prior conviction.
- 3.—Permits a fine up to \$20,000 for each such offense, in addition to a prison term.

The bills would increase the average narcotics term of one to five years up to two to 20 years, and would deny probation in cases of offenses against minors. Other sentences range up to 10 years to life.

Assemblyman Thomas said he planned to "work vigorously for enactment of tighter laws against narcotics offenders — particularly second offenders."

GOP Leaders Score Brown On Narcotics

The Republican chairman of California's 17th Congressional District charged today that Governor Edmund "Pat" Brown's "unwillingness to take strong leadership" has made the narcotics problem increasingly worse in the past two years.

Charles F. Soderstrom, San Pedro businessman and district GOP leader, said that "the narcotics problem has gone along without any type of consideration in the past two years of the Democratic administration."

He laid the blame at the governor's feet "because of Governor Brown's unwillingness to take strong leadership in this very serious problem in California."

The treasurer of the Los Angeles County Republican Central committee, Soderstrom made the comments after State Senator Richard Richards (D-Los Angeles) said the narcotics problem was "ripe" now for legislation.

"That's the understatement of the year," Soderstrom added, noting that the Democrats have delayed action with numerous studies all of which indicated the problem was growing.

Father-Son Banquet Set By Knights

Special awards will be presented, and a prominent professional athlete will appear at the annual "Father and Son" banquet to be held in the council chambers, 214 Avenue I, Redondo Beach, of the Los Crusados council of the Knights of Columbus on Monday, Feb. 6, at 6:30 p.m. Lyle J. O'Hara of Torrance, grand knight of the council, announced this week.

Joseph Piatt, chancellor of the council and program chairman, has established Feb. 1 as the deadline for dinner reservations.

The athletic directors of two South Bay high schools, George Gauder of Bishop Montgomery and Tom Robinson of Fermin-Lasuen, will be guests of honor at the annual banquet. The name of the sports personality will be released at a later date.

Ray Fifield has been appointed chairman of the quarterly Communion-breakfast of the Los Crusados council to be presented in the council chambers immediately following the 8 a.m. Mass at St. Laurence church on Sunday, Jan. 29. Arrangements for the corporate Communion and Mass are under the direction of James Grady of Rolling Hills.

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